
~~Public Notice~~

Reissuance of
General Permit No. 97-000-1

Date:
Published: Nov. 14, 2001
Expires: Dec. 14, 2001

**U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers**

In Reply Refer To:

Buffalo District CELRB-CO-R RE: 97-01(4) Section: NY 404

**Application for Permit under Authority of
Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).**

The District Commander, U.S. Army Engineer District, Buffalo, New York, is considering, on behalf of the general public, reissuance of General Permit No. 97-000-1 for minor channel work, including but not limited to, bank stabilization, channel realignment, and discharge of material associated with gravel removal. All work shall occur in conjunction with the County Soil and Water Conservation Districts or Natural Resources Conservation Service in non-navigable waters of the United States within the Southern Tier of the State of New York and subject to regulation by the U.S. Army Engineer District, Buffalo. This action is being taken in accordance with Title 33 of the Code of Federal Regulations (33 CFR) Parts 320 through 330 as published in the November 13, 1986 Federal Register, Volume 51, No. 219. Use of this permit by the general public will require individual permittees to notify the District Commander of their proposed activities. Work on the project may not proceed until written confirmation by the District Commander is received regarding the applicability of the General Permit to the specific project. Consideration will be given to the transfer of responsibility for affirmation of General Permit 97-000-1 to the District Manager of the respective Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) or Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) at their request. Currently, the District Commander has transferred affirmation responsibility to Steuben County SWCD.

The General Permit has been available since its initial authorization on January 24, 1997. During the past five years, approximately 304 individual projects were authorized under this General Permit. Overall, the establishment of this General Permit has reduced paperwork burdens for the permit applicant and government alike and has substantially shortened the permit decision-making process. This improved efficiency has been accomplished without compromising the environmental values or the needs and welfare of the general public. The permit is proposed to be reauthorized for an additional five years. If the permit is reissued, the attached terms and conditions of the authorization will apply.

Questions pertaining to the work described in this notice should be directed to Bridget E. Brown, who can be contacted by calling (716) 879-4365, or by e-mail at: bridget.brown@usace.army.mil

The following authorization(s) may be required for this project:

1. Water Quality Certification (or waiver thereof) from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.
2. Permit (or waiver thereof) from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

This notice is promulgated in accordance with Title 33, Code of Federal Regulations, parts 320-330. Any interested party desiring to comment on the work described herein may do so by submitting their comments, in writing, so that they are received no later than 4:30 pm on the expiration date of this notice.

Comments should be sent to the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1776 Niagara Street, Buffalo, New York 14207, and should be marked to the attention of Bridget E. Brown, or by e-mail at: bridget.brown@usace.army.mil. A lack of response will be interpreted as meaning that there is no objection to the work as proposed.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be fully considered during the public interest review for this permit application. All written comments will be made a part of the administrative record which is available to the public under the Freedom of Information Act. The Administrative Record, or portions thereof may also be posted on a Corps of Engineers internet web site. Due to resource limitations, this office will normally not acknowledge the receipt of comments or respond to individual letters of comment.

Any individual may request a public hearing by submitting their written request, stating the specific reasons for holding a hearing, in the same manner and time period as other comments.

Public hearings for the purposes of the Corps permit program will be held when the District Commander determines he can obtain additional information, not available in written comments, that will aid him in the decision making process for this application. A Corps hearing is not a source of information for the general public, nor a forum for the resolution of issues or conflicting points of view (witnesses are not sworn and cross examination is prohibited). Hearings will not be held to obtain information on issues unrelated to the work requiring a permit, such as property ownership, neighbor disputes, or the behavior or actions of the public or applicant on upland property not regulated by the Department of the Army. Information obtained from a public hearing is given no greater weight than that obtained from written comments. Therefore, you should not fail to make timely written comments because a hearing might be held.

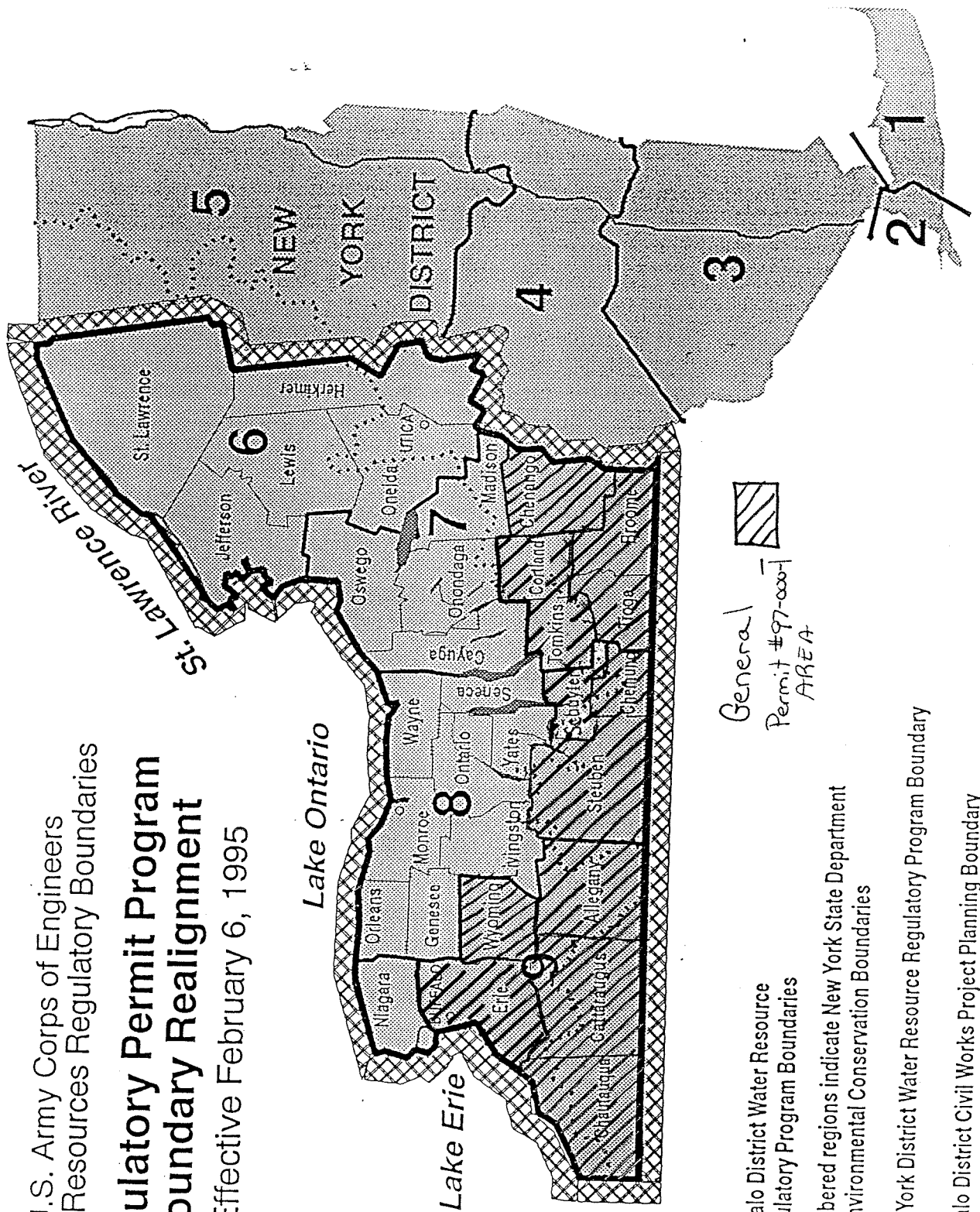
The decision to approve or deny this permit request will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact, including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among these are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Paul G. Leuchner
Chief, Regulatory Branch

NOTICE TO POSTMASTER: It is requested that this notice be posted continuously and conspicuously for 30 days from the date of issuance.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Water Resources Regulatory Boundaries
**Regulatory Permit Program
Boundary Realignment**
Effective February 6, 1995



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY PERMIT

Permittee: Glen R. DeWillie
Lieutenant Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Commander
On Behalf of the General Public

Permit No.: 97-000-1

Processing No.:

Effective Date:

Expiration Date:

Affirmation Date:

Issuing Office: U.S. Army Engineer District, Buffalo
1776 Niagara Street
Buffalo, New York, 14207-3199

IMPORTANT: PRIOR TO COMMENCING THE ACTIVITY AUTHORIZED BY THIS PERMIT OR DIRECTING A CONTRACTOR TO PERFORM SUCH ACTIVITY ON YOUR BEHALF, BE SURE THAT ALL PARTIES READ, UNDERSTAND AND COMPLY WITH THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THIS PERMIT.

NONCOMPLIANCE WITH ANY OF THE TERMS OR CONDITIONS OF THIS PERMIT MAY RESULT IN AN ORDER TO REMOVE THE ACTIVITY; CIVIL AND/OR CRIMINAL PENALTIES OR BOTH.

AUTHORITIES: You have been authorized to undertake the activity described below pursuant to:

Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344)

AUTHORIZED ACTIVITY: Minor channel work, as defined under Special Condition #2, in conjunction with County Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) or the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and which have received written affirmation of permit applicability from the U.S. Army Engineer District, Buffalo.

LOCATION OF THE AUTHORIZED ACTIVITY: Waters of the United States that are located within the following Counties of New York State: Allegany, Broome, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Chemung, Chenango, Cortland, Erie, Schuyler, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins or Wyoming. Navigable Waters as defined under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbor Act of 1899 are excluded from this regional permit.

The general public is hereby authorized by the Secretary of the Army to perform the work authorized by this permit provided there is full compliance with the following general and special conditions.

NOTE: The term "you" and its derivatives, as used in this permit, mean the permittee or any future transferee. The term "this office" refers to the appropriate district or division office of the Corps of Engineers having jurisdiction over the permitted activity or the appropriate official of that office acting under the authority of the commanding officer. The term "activity" as used in this permit includes all structures and work authorized by this permit.

GENERAL CONDITIONS:

1. The work authorized under this regional permit must begin within one year of the affirmation date and must be completed prior to the expiration date noted on the first page of this authorization. In the event that the affirmation date is less than twelve months prior to the expiration date, the regional permit will remain valid for a period of twelve months from the affirmation date. In no case shall authorization exceed twelve months beyond the expiration date. If you find that you need more time to begin and/or complete the authorized activity, submit your written request for a time extension to this office at least three months before the respective date(s).
2. If you discover any previously unknown historic or archaeological remains while accomplishing the activity authorized by this permit, you must immediately notify this office of what you have found. We will initiate the Federal and State coordination required to determine if the remains warrant a recovery effort or if the site is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
3. If you sell the property associated with this permit, you must obtain the signature of the new owner in the space provided and forward a copy of the permit to this office to validate the transfer of this authorization.
4. You must allow representatives from this office to inspect the authorized activity at any time deemed necessary to ensure that it is being or has been accomplished in accordance with the terms and conditions of your permit.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS:

1. This permit shall apply only to those activities specified in Special Condition #2 which are conducted by, or for, any person or agency formally registered as a cooperating landowner with the Allegany, Broome, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Chemung, Chenango, Cortland, Erie, Schuyler, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins or Wyoming County SWCDs or the NRCS.
2. This permit is limited to:
 - a. Clearing of recently formed gravel bars or deposits (within the past 18 months) where such an activity uses land clearing equipment, which results in a discharge of dredged material (i.e. bulldozer, gradall, etc.) and would prevent loss of property or reduce flooding and/or erosion.
 - b. Bank stabilization using on site materials (e.g. gravel, cobble, rock, trees) for a maximum of 500 linear feet per landowner, where this represents the best management practice for the particular project site as determined by SWCD, NRCS, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) or the Buffalo District; or where other best management techniques are demonstrated by the applicant to be economically infeasible.

Trees shall only be used when designed as tree revetment structures properly cabled and anchored to the banks as approved under SWCD or NRCS specifications. **Bank stabilization projects between 200 and 500 linear feet located within Cortland, Erie, Schuyler and Tompkins Counties must receive an individual water quality certification from the appropriate NYSDEC regional office.**

c. Minor realignment of the stream channel when associated with culvert and bridge repair/replacement, not to exceed a total of 200 linear feet.

d. Blocking of channel braids within 1 year of formation to maintain normal channel flow.

3. A preconstruction notification to the Buffalo District is required for the waterways listed below due to the need for site specific reviews for the protection of Federally threatened or endangered species or species of concern. The Buffalo District, SWCD or NRCS will give the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service a 5 day review period related to this matter. Applicants shall not commence work in these waterways under this Regional General Permit until the notification process is completed and the Buffalo District, NRCS or SWCD notifies them to proceed. The following waterways require this notification process: Allegheny River, Canisteo River, Cattaraugus Creek, Chemung River, Chenango River, French Creek, Great Valley Creek, Olean Creek, Oswayo Creek, Otselic Creek, Otselic River and Susquehanna River.

4. Before beginning the work authorized herein or directing a contractor to perform such work on your behalf, be sure that all parties read, understand and comply with the terms and conditions of this permit.

5. That no in-water work shall be performed:

- in warm water streams from March 15 through July 15
- in cold water streams from October 1 through May 15
- in Rainbow trout streams from November 1 through June 15

to preclude adverse impacts to indigenous fish species. The applicant, NRCS or SWCD, shall contact the appropriate NYSDEC-Region office to determine the stream classification.

6. No in-stream work shall occur during periods of high stream flows.

7. No interruption of water flow shall occur during construction in order to sustain life downstream.

8. All authorized work shall proceed to completion without interruption between operations whenever practicable.

9. Access across the stream shall be confined to a single ford.

10. The clearing of gravel bars and deposits is restricted to areas of streambed with a substrate composed mainly of gravel or cobbles. **Areas high in silts, clay and fine sands are excluded from this authorization.** Removal of stream gravel for the express purpose of subsequent use or sale (i.e. gravel mining) is not authorized by this permit.

11. Gravel may only be removed by "skimming" the surface of the gravel bar to a depth no lower than six inches above the typical low (summer) water level of the stream.

12. All new stream channels shall be designed with a parabolic shaped bottom, or be otherwise designed to concentrate flows during low water periods.
13. Whenever feasible, bank grading and gravel removal shall be carried out by land-based equipment rather than from the streambed or flowing water.
14. Bank protection involving the use of on-site gravel or streambed materials to repair eroding banks shall be achieved by transferring the materials from the gravel bar to the eroding bank with a backhoe or rubber-tired front-end loader. Use of a bulldozer for this purpose shall be avoided unless the new/realigned channel can first be constructed primarily in-the-dry starting at the downstream end.
15. Rip-rap shall be entrenched or "toed-in" the streambed or base of the streambank.
16. Before equipment is removed from the work site and the project is considered complete, the cooperater or his/her contractor shall contact the project manager at the NRCS or SWCD and arrange for an on-site inspection.
17. All stream banks disturbed as a result of any activity authorized by this General permit shall be seeded and mulched immediately upon completion of bank work, unless otherwise protected from erosion.
18. All excess dredged material not used for bank stabilization shall be deposited on upland property well removed from waters of the United States, including wetlands, and shall be properly stabilized to prevent re-entry into these waters. If the dredged material is temporarily stored on upland property, adjacent to the dredge site, it shall be contained by a filter fabric or hay bale fence to prevent erosion.
19. That under no circumstances shall dredged material be sidecast or temporarily stockpiled in waters of the United States, including wetlands.
20. This permit does not authorize the placement of structures or the discharge of dredged or fill material below the Ordinary High Water elevation of a waterway for the purpose of creating temporary cofferdams, work pads or access roads.
21. The District Commander reserves the right to include any additional special conditions on a site specific basis that are deemed necessary to protect the aquatic environment or the needs and welfare of the general public.

EXCLUSIONS:

This permit **does not** apply to:

1. Sites within the permit area that are located within the: Allegheny Reservoir, Allegheny River from the NY/PA border to the upstream City limit of Olean, Lake Erie, Cattaraugus Creek from the mouth to 3/4 mile upstream, Cayuga Inlet, Cayuga Lake, the Genesee River from Lake Ontario to Black Creek at Belfast and Seneca Lake, New York.
2. Sites within the permit area that are located within the New York State Coastal Zone Management Area.

3. Areas where the dredged material is known to be heavily contaminated with toxic organic compounds and/or heavy metals.
 4. Activities that have an effect on historic, cultural or archaeological sites identified in the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places, or sites eligible for inclusion in this register, unless the State Historic Preservation Officer makes a determination that the effect will not be adverse.
 5. Activities that have an effect on sites included in the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Landmarks, which are published periodically in this register, unless the State Historic Preservation Officer makes a determination that the effect will not be adverse.
 6. Any other areas named in Acts of Congress or Presidential Proclamations as National Wilderness Areas, National Recreational Areas, Lakeshores, Parks, Monuments and such areas as may be established under Federal Law for similar and related purposes, such as estuaries and marine sanctuaries, except where specifically authorized by this regional permit.
 7. Activities that have an effect on a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, or areas listed in the Nationwide Rivers Inventory, Final List of Rivers for New York as published by the U.S. Department of the Interior, or in a component of a State Wild and Scenic River. Activities located in these areas will be evaluated on a case by case basis, which will include coordination with the National Park Service and/or the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.
 8. Activities that have an effect on rivers currently being studied at the direction of Congress as potential additions to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, or rivers for which Wild and Scenic Rivers studies have been completed and forwarded to Congress and which Congress is still considering. Activities located in these areas will be evaluated on a case by case basis, which will include coordination with the National Park Service.
 9. State designated freshwater wetlands, significant fish and wildlife habitats including candidate designations, important agricultural lands and those which will be designated by the State in the future, historic resources on the State Register of Historic Places, and resources which are a part of the State Nature and Historic Preserve Trust, when these resources lie within the designated New York State Coastal Area.
- Note: Limitations in items 4 through 9 above do not apply to any authorized activity when the work is for the benefit and uses of the site and is specifically endorsed, in writing, by the responsible Federal and State government officials such as the State Historic Preservation Officer, Refuge Manager, Regional Directors of U.S. Department of the Interior Offices such as the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, etc.
10. Any freshwater wetland as defined in Title 33 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 320 et. seq., or other special aquatic site as defined in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Guidelines for Specification of Disposal Sites for Dredged or Fill Material at Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 230.
 11. Activities which may jeopardize the continued existence of species listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, or result in the likelihood of the destruction or adverse modification of a habitat which is determined by

the Secretary of the Interior or Commerce, as appropriate, to be a critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.

12. Activities performed or proposed, unless the property owner has submitted a written request for authorization describing the activity, and the District Commander or authorized agent has determined that it complies with the terms and conditions of this permit.

LIMITS OF THIS AUTHORIZATION

1. The granting of this permit does not obviate the need to obtain other Federal, State or local authorizations as required by law. Specifically, a permit pursuant to the Environmental Conservation Law Articles 15, 24 or 34 may be required from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

2. Issuance of this permit does not grant you any property rights or exclusive privileges, nor does it authorize any injury to the property or rights of others.

3. This permit does not authorize interference with any existing or proposed Federal project, nor does it convey any authority to interfere with the right of the public to free navigation on all navigable waters of the United States.

LIMITS OF FEDERAL LIABILITY: In issuing this permit, the Federal Government does not assume any liability for the following:

1. Damages to the permitted project or uses thereof as a result of other permitted or unpermitted activities or from natural causes.

2. Damages to the permitted project or uses thereof as a result of current or future activities undertaken by or on behalf of the United States in the public interest.

3. Damages to persons, property, or to other permitted or unpermitted activities or structures caused by the activity authorized by this permit.

4. Design or construction deficiencies associated with the permitted work.

5. Damages associated with any future modification, suspension, or revocation of this permit.

RELIANCE ON APPLICANT'S DATA: The determination of this office that issuance of this permit is not contrary to the public interest was made in reliance on the information you provided.

RE-EVALUATION OF THE DECISION TO GRANT A REGIONAL PERMIT: This office may re-evaluate its decision on this permit at any time circumstances warrant. Circumstances that could require a re-evaluation include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. You fail to comply with the terms and conditions of this permit.

2. The information provided by you in support of your application proves to have been false, incomplete, or inaccurate.

3. Significant information surfaces which this office did not consider in reaching the original public interest decision.

Such a re-evaluation may result in a determination that it is appropriate to use the suspension, modification, and revocation procedures contained in Title 33 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 325.7 or enforcement procedures such as those contained in Title 33 of the Code of Federal Regulations Parts 326.4 and 326.5. The referenced enforcement procedures provide for the issuance of an administrative order requiring you to comply with the terms and conditions of your permit and for the initiation of legal action where appropriate. You will be required to pay for any corrective measures ordered by this office, and if you fail to comply with such directive, this office may, in certain situations (such as those specified in Title 33 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 209.170) accomplish the corrective measures by contract or otherwise and bill you for the cost.

EXTENSIONS: General Condition 1 establishes a time limit for the completion of the activity authorized by this permit. Unless there are circumstances requiring either a prompt completion of the authorized activity or a re-evaluation of the public interest decision, the Corps will normally give favorable consideration to a request for an extension of this time limit. Extension requests must be submitted in accordance with the directions given in General Condition 1.

BY AUTHORITY OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

District Commander

Date

When the property associated with the work authorized by this permit is sold or transferred, the terms and conditions of this permit will continue to be binding on the new owner(s) of the property. To validate the transfer of this permit and the liabilities associated with compliance with its terms and conditions, have the transferee sign and date below.

Transferee

Date